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COMMITTEES

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN INSURANCE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re: Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum through Incentive

Auctions, Docket No. 12-268; Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings, WT Docket

No. 12-269

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As the Chairman of the Pennsylvania House Consumer Affairs Committee and a proud member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly for the past 33 years, I have personally witnessed the transformation of the nation's telecommunications market from traditional monopoly based regulation through increased investment and innovation in today's deregulated wireless telecommunications marketplace. This evolution has resulted in unimaginable technological advancements, privatization and increased consumer choice. As more wireless providers compete to wow consumers with the latest technological innovations and broadband service speeds, I encourage the FCC to consider adopting safeguards that allow all wireless providers equal opportunity to secure critical spectrum resources in the upcoming 600MHz auction.

Preserving robust competition in the wireless market will benefit consumers through increased choices, lower prices, higher quality, and more reliable services. Because the upcoming incentive auction represents will likely be the last opportunity for any wireless service provider to acquire low-band spectrum in the United States, it is imperative that the FCC adopt appropriate policies that permit all wireless providers to secure meaningful quantities of critical low-band spectrum. Doing so will protect consumer choice and innovation in the wireless broadband market for years to come.

While I believe the Commission established the original 30MHz spectrum reserve with that very intent to enhance wireless competition and innovation, I am concerned that the current carve-out is insufficient to allow smaller carriers with non-national footprint or sufficient low-band holdings to compete in future mobile broadband markets. Thus, I encourage the FCC to consider increasing the size of the reserve in each spectrum reserve market to reduce market concentration and protect consumers, governments and businesses from paying more for wireless service than they would if the market were more competitive.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and your continued commitment to promote robust competition for wireless services throughout our nation.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Godshall, Majority Chairman

Pennsylvania House Consumer Affairs Committee

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